

**HIGHLIGHTS IN THIS REPORT**

January Livestock Slaughter  
Honey Production  
Prices Received By Farmers  
U. S. Farm Labor & Wage Rates

**Louisiana Livestock Slaughter**

Commercial red meat production in Louisiana during January totaled 1.2 million pounds, unchanged from December but down 8 percent from the previous year.

There were 1,300 head of **cattle** slaughtered during January, up 200 head from December but the same as the previous year. Average live weight was 867 pounds, up 27 pounds from the previous month but 19 pounds below January 2003. Total live weight, at 1.13 million pounds, was 24 percent above the previous month but 3 percent below the previous year.

**Calves** slaughtered during January totaled 600 head, down 200 head from December and 300 head below the previous year. Live weight averaged 491 pounds, down 6 pounds from December and 5 pounds below a year ago. Total live weight, at 290,000 pounds, was down 28 percent from December and 35 percent below the previous year.

The number of **hogs** slaughtered during January totaled 1,900 head, down 700 head from the previous month and 100 head below January 2003. Average live weight was 203 pounds, up 18 pounds from December but 2 pounds below the previous year. Total live weight was 380,000 pounds, 22 percent below December and 6 percent below a year ago.

The number of **sheep** slaughtered during January was 100 head, unchanged from December and the same as the previous year. Live weight averaged 86 pounds, up 13 pounds from the previous month and 11 pounds from the previous year.

**U S Livestock Slaughter**

Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.71 billion pounds in January, down 9 percent from the 4.07 billion pounds produced in January 2003.

January 2004 contained 22 weekdays (including two holidays) and 5 Saturdays. January 2003 contained 23 weekdays (including two holidays) and 4 Saturdays

**Beef production**, at 1.92 billion pounds, was 16 percent below the previous year. Cattle slaughter totaled 2.57 million head, down 14 percent from January 2003. The average live weight was 1,249 pounds, down 19 pounds from January a year ago.

**Veal production** totaled 16.0 million pounds, 10 percent below January a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 79,000 head, down 16 percent from January 2003. The average live weight was 336 pounds, up 18 pounds from January a year ago.

**Pork production** totaled 1.76 billion pounds, up 1 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 8.79 million head, slightly above January 2003. The average live weight was 269 pounds, up 1 pound from January a year ago.

**Lamb and mutton production**, at 15.4 million pounds, was down 3 percent from January 2003. Sheep slaughter totaled 219,200 head, 8 percent below last year. The average live weight was 141 pounds, up 8 pounds from January a year ago.

**Commercial Livestock Slaughter and Red Meat Production**

Item	Louisiana			United States	
	December	January		January	
	2003	2003	2004	2003	2004
	-----Thousand head-----			-----Thousand head-----	
Cattle	1.1	1.3	1.3	3,007.0	2,571.0
Calves	0.8	0.9	0.6	93.7	79.0
Hogs	2.6	2.0	1.9	8,785.5	8,785.7
Sheep & Lambs	0.1	0.1	0.1	238.8	219.2
	-----Total live weight, thousand pounds-----			-----Total live weight, thousand pounds-----	
Cattle	911	1,169	1,131	3,814,305	3,210,574
Calves	401	443	290	29,764	26,541
Hogs	488	405	380	2,352,762	2,362,374
Sheep & Lambs	6	8	8	31,856	30,833
	-----Average live weight, pounds-----			-----Average live weight, pounds-----	
Cattle	840	886	867	1,268	1,249
Calves	497	496	491	318	336
Hogs	185	205	203	268	269
Sheep & Lambs	73	75	86	133	141
	-----Million pounds-----			-----Million pounds-----	
Red meat	1.2	1.3	1.2	4,073.4	3,713.1

### Honey: Number of Colonies and Production<sup>1</sup>

Selected States	Number of Colonies		Yield Per Colony		Production	
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
	-----1,000 Colonies-----		-----Pounds-----		-----1,000 pounds-----	
Alabama	12	13	86	82	1,032	1,066
Arkansas	45	40	88	75	3,960	3,000
Georgia	50	52	52	65	2,600	3,380
<b>Louisiana</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>4,340</b>	<b>3,060</b>
Mississippi	18	21	78	69	1,404	1,449
Texas	114	140	67	67	7,638	9,380
<b>United States</b>	<b>2,574</b>	<b>2,590</b>	<b>66.7</b>	<b>69.9</b>	<b>171,718</b>	<b>181,096</b>

### Honey: Stocks and Values<sup>1</sup>

Selected States	Stocks, December 15 <sup>2</sup>		Average Price Per Pound <sup>3</sup>		Value of Production	
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
	-----1,000 Pounds-----		-----Cents-----		-----1,000 dollars-----	
Alabama	103	43	118	126	1,218	1,343
Arkansas	871	810	126	127	4,990	3,810
Georgia	52	270	113	128	2,983	4,326
<b>Louisiana</b>	<b>347</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>5,034</b>	<b>3,794</b>
Mississippi	281	246	123	128	1,727	1855
Texas	985	1,126	114	142	8,707	13,320
<b>United States</b>	<b>39,393</b>	<b>40,735</b>	<b>132.7</b>	<b>140.4</b>	<b>228,338</b>	<b>255,791</b>

<sup>1</sup>For producers with 5 or more colonies.

<sup>2</sup>Stocks held by producers.

<sup>3</sup>Prices weighted by sales.

### Louisiana Honey Production Falls

Honey production from producers with five or more hives in Louisiana during 2003 totaled 3.06 million pounds, down 29 percent from 2002. The number of colonies, at 34,000, was down 1,000 from 2002. Honey stocks on December 15, 2003, amounted to 275,000 pounds, down 72,000 pounds from 2002.

The average price received for honey sold during 2003 was 124 cents per pound, up 8 cents from 2002. The value of the 2003 honey crop was 3.79 million dollars, down 25 percent from the previous year.

### United States Honey Production Up 5 Percent

U.S. honey production in 2003 from producers with five or more colonies totaled 181 million pounds, up 5 percent from 2002. There were 2.59 million colonies producing honey in 2003, up 1 percent from 2002. Yield per colony averaged 69.9 pounds, up 5 percent from the 66.7 pounds produced in 2002. Colonies which produced honey in more than one state were counted in each state and yields per colony may therefore be understated. Colonies were not included if honey was not harvested. Producer honey stocks were 40.7 million pounds on December 15, 2003, up 3 percent from a year earlier. Stocks held by producers exclude stocks held under the commodity loan program.

### Honey Prices Reach Record High

Honey prices reached a record 140.4 cents per pound in 2003, up 6 percent from 132.7 cents in 2002. Prices are based on retail sales by producers and sales to private processors and cooperatives. State level honey prices reflect the portions of honey sold through retail, co-op and private channels. U.S. honey prices for each color class are derived by weighing quantities sold for each marketing channel at the U.S. level. Honey prices for 2003 were higher than the previous year for all color classes. Some 2002 crop honey was sold at higher prices in 2003, which caused some revisions to 2002 crop prices.

### Average Prices Received by Farmers

Item	Louisiana			United States		
	Entire Month		Preliminary	Entire Month		Preliminary
	February	January	February	February	January	February
	2003	2004	2004 <sup>1</sup>	2003	2004	2004 <sup>1</sup>
	-----Dollars-----			-----Dollars-----		
Soybeans, per bushel	5.61	7.46	8.21	5.55	7.34	7.99
Rice, per cwt	4.02	7.69	8.74	4.24	8.19	7.55
Upland Cotton, per pound	.449	.630	2/ .611	.465	.625	2/ .616
Hay, all, baled, per ton	n/a	n/a	n/a	91.40	79.30	79.90
Beef Cattle, per cwt	48.30	57.30	58.00	73.90	80.90	77.80
Steers & Heifers, per cwt	75.40	87.00	89.00	78.20	85.40	81.60
Cows, per cwt	37.70	44.50	46.00	38.90	46.10	46.20
Calves, per cwt	89.60	102.00	106.00	97.20	110.00	110.00
Broilers, live, per pound	n/a	n/a	n/a	.340	.430	.470
Eggs All, per dozen	n/a	n/a	n/a	.570	.874	.833
Milk All, per cwt 3/	n/a	n/a	n/a	12.00	13.75	14.15

<sup>1</sup>Mid-month;

<sup>2</sup>Based on sales during the first half of the month;

<sup>3</sup>Before deductions for hauling and government withholdings. Includes bulk tank, quantity, and other premiums. Excludes hauling subsidies.

n/a = not available

### February Farm Prices Received Index Up 2 Points

The preliminary February Index of Prices Received by Farmers for All Products (based on 1990-1992=100), at 113, is 2 points above the January Index. The Livestock Products Index increased 1 point from January while the All Crops Index increased 2 points. Producers received higher commodity prices for soybeans, broilers, corn and hogs. Lower prices were received for cattle, lettuce, eggs and broccoli. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell, based on the past 3-year average, also affects the overall index. Increased average marketings of milk, cattle, broilers and eggs offset decreased marketings of soybeans, corn, tobacco and wheat.

This preliminary All Farm Products Index is up 14 points from February 2003. The Food Commodities Index, at 114, increased 2 points from last month, 18 points above February 2003.

### Prices Paid Index Unchanged

The February Index of Prices Paid for Commodities and Services, Interest, Taxes and Farm Wage Rates is 130 percent of the 1990-92 average. The index is unchanged from January but 2 points above February 2003. Lower prices in February for feeder cattle, feed concentrates, herbicides and insecticides offset higher prices for complete feeds, nitrogen fertilizers, feed grains and LP gas.

## Farm Labor & Wage Rates: Delta and United States

Items	Delta <sup>1</sup>			United States		
	January 2003	October 2003	January 2004	January 2003	October 2003	January 2004
	-----Thousand workers-----			-----Thousand workers-----		
<b>Hired Workers (All)</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>889</b>	<b>1,197</b>	<b>847</b>
<b>Ag Service Workers</b>	---	---	---	160	306	180
<b>Hired Workers</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>729</b>	<b>891</b>	<b>667</b>
150 Days or More	16	20	18	614	626	554
149 Days or Less	2	11	3	115	265	113
	-----Per week-----			-----Per week-----		
<b>Average Hours Worked</b> <b>(Hired Farm Workers)</b>	<b>38.3</b>	<b>37.0</b>	<b>32.4</b>	<b>37.7</b>	<b>40.2</b>	<b>38.1</b>
	-----Per hour-----			-----Per hour-----		
<b>Average Wage Rate</b> <b>(Hired Farm Workers)</b>	<b>\$8.63</b>	<b>\$7.48</b>	<b>\$9.03</b>	<b>\$9.34</b>	<b>\$9.05</b>	<b>\$9.41</b>
<b>By Type of Worker</b>						
Field	\$8.56	\$7.01	\$8.57	\$8.30	\$8.42	\$8.39
Livestock	\$7.89	\$7.15	\$8.71	\$8.90	\$8.64	\$8.84

<sup>1</sup>Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi.

--- Data Not Published.

### United States Farm Labor

There were 847,000 hired workers on the nation's farms and ranches during the week of January 11-17, 2004, down 5 percent from a year ago. Of these hired workers, 667,000 were hired directly by farm operators. Agricultural service employees on farms and ranches made up the remaining 180,000 workers.

Farm operators paid hired workers an average wage of \$9.41 per hour during the January 2004 reference week, up 7 cents from a year earlier. Field workers received an average of \$8.39 per hour, up 9 cents from last January, while livestock workers earned \$8.84 per hour compared with \$8.90 a year earlier. The field and livestock worker combined wage rate, at \$8.55 per hour, was up 5 cents from last year.

*The Louisiana Farm Reporter (ISSN-0056-7670) is published semi-monthly (Twice a month) by the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, Louisiana Agricultural Statistics Service, 5825 Florida Blvd, Baton Rouge, LA 70806. Subscription is free to respondents and cooperators, \$10.00 Annually to all others, and is available from the above address. Periodicals postage is paid in Baton Rouge, LA and at additional mailing offices. Postmaster: Send changes of address to Louisiana Farm Reporter, P. O. Box 65038, Baton Rouge, LA 70896-5038.*

Internet Access:

\*For free automatic e-mail subscriptions to this publication go to <http://www.nass.usda.gov/sub-form.htm> or visit our homepage at <http://www.nass.usda.gov/la/>

Louisiana Agricultural Statistics Service  
 PERIODICALS POSTAGE  
 JACKSON, MS 39201



Louisiana Agricultural Statistics Service  
 (225) 922-1362  
 5825 Florida Blvd., P.O. Box 65038  
 Baton Rouge, LA 70896-5038